

Remarks:

I. Introduction

In the Office Action mailed on May 17, 2007, the Examiner rejected claims 1 to 8, 10 to 15 and 17, objected to claims 9 and 16, and allowed claims 18 to 20. The present amendment cancels claims 8, 9, 15 and 16, amends claims 1 and 11, and adds no new claims. Accordingly, claims 1 to 7, 10 14 and 17 to 20 are now pending in this application.

II. Objection to Drawings

The Examiner objected to the drawings because the reference number "6" is used in the specification but is not included in the drawings. Submitted herewith are replacement sheets for the drawing which correct the item cited by the Examiner. The specification has also be amended to correct a typographical error located near reference number 6 which was found during the preparation of this amendment. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection is requested.

III. Claim Rejections Based on 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

The Examiner rejected claims 1, 2, 8, and 10 under 35. U.S.C. § 102(b) as unpatentable over Yamazaki (US 5,243,856).

Independent claim 1 and all claims dependent therefrom are allowable because claim 1 has been amended to include the subject matter of dependent claim 8 (as well as claim 7) which was previously indicated to be allowable if rewritten into independent form including any intermediate claims. Independent claim 11 has been amended to include the subject matter of dependent claim 16 (as well as claim 15) which was previously indicated to be allowable if rewritten into independent form including any intermediate claims. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

IV. Claim Rejections Based on 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

The Examiner rejected claims 3 to 7, 11 to 15 and 17 under 35. U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Yamazaki (US 5,243,856) in view of Schantz et al. (US 4,230,919).

Dependent claims 3 to 7 is allowable as depending from an allowable claim 1 as discussed as discussed above and independently allowable for novel and nonobvious matter contained therein. Independent claim 11 and all claims dependent therefrom are allowable because claim 11 has been amended to include the subject matter of dependent claim 16 (as well as claim 15) which was previously indicated to be allowable if rewritten into independent form including any intermediate claims. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

V. Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner objected to claims 9 and 16 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but indicated that these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. As discussed above, the subject matter of claim 9 has been inserted into claim 1 and the subject matter of claim 16 has been inserted into claim 11.

Applicants acknowledge the allowance of claims 18 to 20.

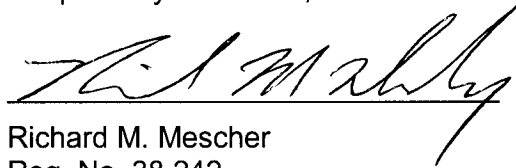
VI. CONCLUSION

In light of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in a condition for allowance and notice to that effect is hereby requested. If it is found that that the present amendment does not place the application in a condition for allowance, Applicant's

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undersigned attorney requests that the Examiner initiate a telephone interview to expedite prosecution of the application. If there are any fees resulting from this communication, please charge same to our Deposit Account No. 50-3915.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. M. Mescher", is written over a horizontal line.

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